



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

President
Federico Mayor

Members
Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier
Pierre-Louis

Asma Jilani Jahangir

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Rodolfo Mattarollo

Bill Richardson

Secretariat
Serrano Galvache, 26
28071 Madrid
Tel: +34 91 394 8953
Fax: +34 91 394 8653
colaboradores.avc@maec.es
info@icomdp.org

www.icomdp.org

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**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on the Execution of Troy Davis
in Georgia, USA**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty strongly deplores the execution of Troy Davis, carried out on 21 September, after the US Supreme Court rejected a last-minute appeal for a stay. Troy Davis was executed although serious doubts had been raised repeatedly about the fairness of Davis' trial.

Troy Davis, an Afro-American citizen, was accused of killing the off-duty police officer Mark Allen Macphail in Savannah, Georgia, in 1989. Two years later, he was sentenced to death. Davis' case mainly rested on witness testimonies. Since 1991, inconsistencies in those testimonies have come to light. Some of the key witnesses alleged police coercion while testifying against Davis. In total, seven of nine key witnesses recanted or changed their testimony.

Since the death penalty is an irreversible punishment, International Law clearly underlines that it is of utmost importance that the right to fair trial standards is met in capital cases. Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the USA is a Party Member since 1992, states that everyone is entitled to receive a fair trial. Furthermore, the ECOSOC Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of those Facing the Death Penalty underline the obligation of the State ensure a fair trial and explicitly state "Capital punishment may be imposed only when the guilt of the person charged is based upon clear and convincing evidence leaving no room for an alternative explanation of the facts."

ICDP condemns the execution of a human being under any circumstances and therefore urges the US State of Georgia to review its death penalty system and to introduce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty